

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SUVA 01261 240253Z

62

ACTION L-02

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 PER-03 PC-05 CPR-01 IGA-01 RSC-01

/024 W

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R 240030Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY SUVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3611

INFO AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

UNCLAS SUVA 1261

FOR PER/PCE/PPM/LP FROM CHARGE

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: APER AFSP FJ

SUBY: USG PARTICIPATION IN FNPF

REF: STATE 269445

1. SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS KOTOBALAVU, GOF OFFICIAL MOST KNOWLEDGEABLE ON SUBJ MATTER, HAS BEEN ABSENT FROM FIJI AND JUST RETURNED DEC 22. I WAS ABLE TO SEE HIM MORNING OF DECEMBER 24 TO DISCUSS MATTER BASED ON CONTENTS REFTEL.
2. KOTOBALAVU REITERATED THAT GOF DOES NOT RPT NOT OBJECT TO CONTENTS OF USG PROPOSAL FOR PARTICIPATION IN FNPF, NOR DOES GOF OBJECT IN PRINPIPLE TO SIGNING AGREEMENT. FACT IS THAT LEGISLATION ESTABLISHING FNPF, WHICH IS STATUTORY BODY OF GOF, PRECLUDES GOF FROM ENTERING INTO AGREEMENTS ON BEHALF OF FNPF. (EMBASSY HAS PERHAPS NOT RPT NOT MADE THIS POINT SUFFICIENTLY CLEAR IN PREVIOUS COMMUNICATIONS WITH DEPT. REFTEL APPEARS TO ASSUME THAT IT IS CONTENT OF AGREEMENT THAT GOF OBJECTS TO, WHICH IS NOT RPT NOT CASE.)
3. GOF IS NOT RPT NOT THEREFORE IN POSITION TO MAKE COUNTER OFFER INCLUDING SPECIFIC DELETIONS, AS SUGGESTED PARA 7 REFTEL. NOR IS GOF QUESTIONING DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY FOR EMBASSY, ALTHOUGH IT DOES RECOGNIZE THAT PEACE CORPS IS NOT RPT NOT ENTITLED TO

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PAGE 02 SUVA 01261 240253Z

IMMUNITY.

4. IN FINAL POINT, I RAISED POSSIBILITY CONTAINED IN PARA 4 OF REFTTEL, I.E. SUBMISSION OF NOTE TO WHICH GOF MAY OBJECT DURING REASONABLE LENGTH OF TIME, AFTER WHICH, IF NO OBJECTIONS HAVE BEEN RAISED OR EXCEPTIONS TAKENBN USG WILL BEGIN MAKING PAYMENTS TO FNPf. KOTOBALAVU THOUGHT THIS MIGHT PROVIDE SOLUTION TO PRESENT IMPASSE, AND I SAID I WOULD ASK DEPT FOR LANGUAGE FOR SUCH A NOTE AND WOULD BE BACK TO TALK WITH HIM IN NEAR FUTURE.

5. DEPT IS REQUESTED TO FORWARD TO EMBASSY ASAP LANGUAGE FOR SUCH A NOTE. SINCE I HAVE NO BACKGROUND IN AGREEMENTS OF THIS TYPE, I AM NOT IN POSITION TO SUGGEST LANGUAGE BUT WOULD HOPE IT COULD BE SIMPLE STATEMENT THAT USG INTENDS TO PARTICIPATE IN FNPf ON BEHALF OF EMPLOYEES OF EMBASSY AND PEACE CORPS WHO ARE FIJI NATIONALS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS OF FIJI, UNLESS GOF PERCEIVES OBJECTIONS BY CERTAIN DATE.

6. KOTOBALAVU ASKED IF USG WOULD CONSIDER ENTERING INTO AGREEMENT WITH FNPf ITSELF. I SAID I WOULD HAVE TO ASK DEPT, BUT RECALLED THAT WHEN MATTER OF USG PARTICIPATION IN FNPf WAS RAISED IN 1967 THE FNPf HAD DECLINED TO ENTER INTO AGREEMENT WITH US. KOTOBALAVU ADDED THAT IN HIS CONVERSATIONS WITH FNPf, LATTER HAD QUESTIONED WHY IT IS NECESSARY FOR USG TO HAVE WRITTEN AGREEMEHT WHEN OTHER DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS IN FIJI (BRITISH, AUSTRALIAN, NEW ZEALAND, AND INDIAN) ALL PARTICIPATE IN FUND WITHOUT SUCH AGREEMENT.
HALL

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